

# CoRIS Meeting Notes

*June 16, 2004*

## **Agenda**

### *(1) Results of the Editorial Board meeting of June 9, 2004*

The report of the June 9 Editorial Board meeting is attached. In it, the Editorial Board recommends that CoRIS should not attempt to store and provide access to digital video data until the issue of archiving these data is resolved within NOAA. They encouraged CoRIS to gather metadata, but not to acquire the data sets. Don Collins reported that he and a group in the NOAA Library are working on a proof-of-concept plan to archive digital video and image data in the National Oceanographic Data Center archive system. Parmesh plans to meet with this group and report back.

The Board also recommended that it is too early for CoRIS to seek non-NOAA data. NOAA data includes coral data and products that are produced with NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program funding, with other funds in NOAA, and with grants to other organizations. The group noted that many in NOAA need help to document their data, and that CoRIS needs to reach out with assistance.

There was further discussion that NOAA and CoRIS should organize a meeting of Federal agency representatives at the working level to discuss sharing coral data and data products. It was pointed out that the draft report of the Ocean Commission encourages this, and that a session could be organized during the fall meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force. Lindsey noted that this idea is not supported by the Editorial Board at this time, and that participants of the Task Force meeting are not the right people for this topic.

### *(2) Coral Program FY 2005 project proposal process*

The CoRIS project is part of the Observing Systems Working Group for developing FY 2005 project proposals to the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program. CoRIS will develop a proposal with three funding levels for consideration by the Working Group: (1) a base level sufficient to maintain CoRIS at a bare minimum, (2) the present level, and (3) an increased level that supports expansion

options. A draft proposal will be distributed to the CoRIS team for review and comment.

Mark Eakin noted that other coral project managers will be looking closely at the CoRIS proposal, and that good supporting documentation will be important.

### *(3) The 10<sup>th</sup> International Coral Reef Symposium*

Miguel Lugos agreed to present Mark McCaffrey's CoRIS presentation – many thanks, Miguel. CoRIS will ship brochures for the NOAA booth. Joe provided Miguel with a CD-ROM copy of the CoRIS Web site and all metadata for demonstration at the symposium.

### *(4) New data search capabilities*

Joe Shirley demonstrated a new data access tool for CoRIS. Two new browse lists are available – one in which ocean and sea names are listed, and one in which reef and bank names are listed. In both lists, each name is associated with CoRIS metadata records that overlap a bounding box of latitude and longitude for that name.

Response of the group was very positive, and Parmesh asked Joe to move these new tools to the public web site. Mark Eakin noted the need for links to more readable versions of metadata; Joe agreed to add links to metadata in FAQ format.

## **General Discussion**

Anna reported that the information about the CoRIS Library will be presented in a paper at the NOAA Web Shop in Philadelphia.

Mark McCaffrey noted that the more we can do to show that CoRIS supports Observing System projects, the better it will be for FY 2005 funding. He also suggested that Marine Protected Area boundaries should be available as a Map Search layer in CoRIS. Others commented that NOAA Server includes many NOAA coral data sets that should be part of CoRIS. These ideas are food for thought for the FY 2005 project proposal.

# **Report of the NOAA Coral Reef Information System (CoRIS) Editorial Board Meeting**

June 9, 2004

## **Participants**

### Editorial Board Members

Eric Bayler, NESDIS  
David Kennedy, NOS  
Garry Mayer, NMFS  
Barbara Moore, OAR  
Roger Griffis, Chair

### NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) and CoRIS Staff

Parmesh Dwivedi  
Doug Hamilton  
Harry Iredale  
Tom LaPointe  
Anthony Picciolo  
Sree Shankar  
Joseph Shirley  
Thaila Thailambal  
Lindsey Williams

## **Agenda**

### (1) Fiscal Year 2004 Accomplishments

A summary of CoRIS accomplishments during October 2003 through May 2004 was presented to the Board. The summary can be found in document 1. Documents 2-6 contain additional details and reports.

### (2) Fiscal Year 2005 Plan

The FY 2005 CoRIS plan includes goals for a base level of operations, plus optional new tasks. Discussion of the plan and questions of Board members are summarized in the section "Discussion", below. The draft plan is outlined in document 7.

### (3) Issues

Several issues (document 8) were presented to the Board for their information or comment. Discussion of issues is summarized below.

**Discussion** – This section contains summaries of discussions, along with recommendations of the Board and actions to be taken.

- **CoRIS Mission:** Board members asked for a copy of the CoRIS mandate, and for the slide presentation.

**ACTION:** CoRIS will provide a copy of the CoRIS mission and presentation slides.

- **Video data:** A considerable amount of digital video and digital image data is being collected by CRCP projects. Concerns were raised about the need for a permanent archive, and the need of users to know what information is in each file. The Board recommends that CoRIS not acquire these data for safe keeping until a solution is found for a permanent archive. In the meantime, CoRIS is ready to accept metadata records about digital video and still image data that are available from NOAA offices.

**ACTION:** The Editorial Board Chair, with support of the CoRIS Team, will raise this issue to the NESDIS Archive Review Board.

- **Expanding CoRIS Mission:** CoRIS data outreach meetings in the Pacific produced comments from coral program managers, non-governmental environmental organizations, scientists and the public. Many stated the need for summary descriptions of coral reef ecosystems at regional and local levels, as well as problems of and threats to reef communities. This goal, if taken on by CoRIS, is an expansion of the original vision for a single access point for NOAA coral data and information.

**RESULT:** The Board agreed that, if CoRIS decides to pursue this goal, the task should be described as an option in the proposal process. It was noted that information obtained to write the 2004 State of the Reefs report might help address this need.

- **Non-NOAA coral data:** The Board was informed of a plan developed by CoRIS to seek coral data and information from sources other than NOAA.

**RESULT:** The Board believes that it is too early to seek non-NOAA data, and that there are many NOAA data and information sources that are a higher priority. Data from the National Undersea Research Program and Sea Grant are examples, as well as from National Marine Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas. In addition, NOAA's programs to research deep water corals will be producing data and information that should be available in CoRIS.

**ACTION:** The CoRIS team will continue to focus on NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program data and information, and will initiate contact to explore inclusion of NURP and SeaGrant data. The CoRIS team will contact Board members as needed for information about these NOAA data sources.

- **CoRIS FY 2005 Plan:** The 2005 CoRIS Plan, as presented to the Board, includes additional tasks to add non-NOAA data, and to write and post coral status summaries for regional or local areas. The Board asked for three option packages for (1) bare minimum operations, (2) current level of operations, and (3) expanded operations that include additional tasks.

**ACTION:** CoRIS will develop the three plan options as requested and provide them to the Board for consideration. In addition, estimated out-year costs will be provided. Costs for the following expansion tasks will be developed: adding non-NOAA data, developing summary descriptions of corals and their communities, and adding NURP and Sea Grant data.

- **Delays in data availability:** Many CRCP project managers have not provided access to data or information generated by their projects.

The CRCP Office is already working with CoRIS and staff of the CRCP Projects Data Base to develop reports and procedures that will identify and verify missing products. In addition, the Board agreed that CRCP staff will provide twice yearly reminders to project managers regarding the requirement that metadata and publications must be submitted to CoRIS.

- **GIS displays in CoRIS:** The Board asked CoRIS to review the current use of GIS and to consider adding or improving the use of GIS tools to display coral data and information.

**ACTION:** CoRIS will include that task in the FY 2005 plan.

- **Editorial Board Meeting Schedule:** The Board asked that Editorial Board meetings be held three times a year.

**ACTION:** Staff will schedule the next meeting for October 2004.

## Referenced Documents

1. *CoRIS FY 2004 Accomplishments, October – May 2004*
2. *CRED-CoRIS Workshop to Develop CRED Metadata*
3. *CoRIS Report on Metadata, Data and Information Resources – May 2004*

4. *Web Use Statistics Report – April 2004*
5. *CoRIS Web Site User Evaluation Number 1 - July 2003*
6. *NOAA CoRIS Data Outreach Project 2003*
7. *CoRIS FY 2005 Plan*
8. *CoRIS Issues*